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## Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MAZIE K. HIRONO, a Senator from the State of Hawaii.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our strength, rock, and fortress, we praise Your holy Name. Thank You for being our shield and stronghold.

Today, give our lawmakers the wisdom to seek You, for You deserve their trust. As our Senators remember how You have sustained our Nation in the past, may they have confidence in Your guidance for the future.

Lord, remind them of the times they cried to You for help, and You answered them through Your loving providence. As they recall that when You speak, good things happen, empower them to face whatever the future brings without fear. Use them to speak lifegiving words that bring harmony and hope.

We pray in Your marvelous Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, April 19, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MAZIE K. HIRONO, a Senator from the State of Hawaii, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Ms. HIRONO thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, the Senate returns this week with a full plate. Today, we will continue to work on two important nominations to the Justice Department: Lisa Monaco and Vanita Gupta. Both should be confirmed by the end of this week. The Senate will also vote to confirm SEC Commissioner Gary Gensler to a full term.

At the same time, the Senate will continue to work on the anti-Asian hate crimes bill. Last week, the Senate voted to proceed with the legislation by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 92 to 6. The process will continue to be bipartisan.

Senator COLLINS has worked with Senator HIRONO—you, Madam President—on a few modifications, which we have welcomed. Senators MORAN and BLUMENTHAL have worked with Senator SCOTT of Florida to incorporate his feedback into their legislation called

the NO HATE Act, which would improve and strengthen the bill.

Senator WARNOCK has worked with Senators HIRONO and COLLINS to include language acknowledging the recent tragic shootings near Atlanta.

All of these ideas will be incorporated into a broader final substitute amendment. I will ensure the Senate votes on the substitute amendment in the coming days. All told, the Senate is on track to finish this bill later this week.

We are seeing that when the Senate is given the opportunity to work, the Senate can work. Members from both sides of the aisle have worked together over the past week to consider, perfect, and—soon—enact legislation responding to a pressing issue.

Regrettably—very regrettably—in recent years, all of us have witnessed a surge of White nationalism and violent extremism in American society. Senators of good will from both sides of the aisle have taken note and developed proposals to give Federal law enforcement officials the tools to better detect, prevent, and prosecute this surge in hate crimes.

The Senate will incorporate many of these ideas in the final substitute amendment to this bill. As a result, I am optimistic we can finish our work on the anti-Asian hate crimes bill later this week in the same manner we started, with an overwhelming bipartisan vote.

And, let me say, it is needed. As I go through New York—I have been to several more rallies, one early this morning—anti-Asian hate crime, unfortunately, is on the upsurge. We hear about the violent acts. We have heard about the deaths. But, every day, thousands—thousands—of Asian Americans are subjected to smaller but nonetheless stinging acts of hate crime by being called names, by being spat upon, by being cursed at, and even just by being stared at in a nasty way like: Who the heck are you?

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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